

NEWS RELEASE

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Bloomington Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Prison for Producing Child Pornography

Peoria, IL - A McLean County man, Edward James Lester, age 34, of 905 W. Olive, Bloomington, Illinois, was sentenced today to the federal statutory maximum sentence of 360 months in federal prison for producing child pornography, as announced by Jan Paul Miller, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. In addition to the 30-year prison sentence, U.S. District Judge Michael Mihm ordered that Lester remain under supervised release for the remainder of his life upon his release from prison. Lester pled guilty in federal court on May 13, 2004, to a single count of production of child pornography and the forfeiture of his computer equipment.

Lester was also convicted in McLean County Circuit Court on August 30, 2004, and was sentenced to consecutive terms of 15 years for each of two counts of criminal sexual assault and three years for one count of aggravated sexual abuse.

The federal charges are the result of an investigation by the Central Illinois Cybercrime Unit. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas A. Keith.

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